

Meeting Minutes for the Citizens' Commission on Elected Officials Compensation
May 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
Columbus City Hall, Council Chambers

- Chester C. Christie, Commission Chair
- Kristen Easterday, Commissioner
- Dawn Tyler Lee, Commissioner
- Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., Commissioner
- William Murdock, Commissioner
- Andrea Blevins, Columbus City Clerk
- Josh Cox, Chief Counsel, Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.
- Ken Paul, Chief of Staff to Council President Andrew J. Ginther
- Rory McGuinness, Special Assistant to Mayor Michael B. Coleman
- Nichole Brandon, Director, Columbus Department of Human Resources

Mr. Christie called the sixth meeting of the Citizens' Commission of Elected Official Compensation to order. Commission members and staff introduced themselves.

Mr. Christie gave an overview of the charge and the work of the Commission so far.

Mr. Christie stated that the public may offer testimony consistent with the rules of Columbus City Council, which require that a speaker slip be filled out by the individual wishing to speak and stated that slips are available in the hallway directly adjacent to Columbus City Council Chambers. Mr. Christie stated the Commission would take speaker slips immediately following the business portion of the meeting.

Approval of the minutes for May 6th public hearing: Ms. Moore requested to add Nicole Brandon to the attendance and on the first page, second to last paragraph, and add "a.m." after the time.

Ms. Moore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tyler Lee, for adoption of the Minutes for the May 6th Meeting as amended.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried

Mr. Murdock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tyler Lee, for adoption of the Minutes for the April 30th Meeting.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried

Mr. Christie referenced Charter Section 15-4, which outlines that the commission shall submit to the city clerk a report of recommendations for the salary of each elected officer of the city. Mr. Christie stated the Commission was responsible for deciding which specific years the recommendations will be made for.

Mr. McGuinness gave an overview of the Elected Official Compensation Schedule document. Mr. McGuinness recommended keeping the salaries in place for all positions set by ordinance 2665-2013. He also recommended the Commission set a salary figure for the Mayor for 2020 and a cost of living increase for 2021. Mr. McGuinness stated that if that is implemented, the 2018 Commission could then make

recommendations on all the elected positions on a standard, four year cycle. Mr. McGuinness stated staff recommends setting a salary for the Council President and Council Members for 2018 and CPI through 2021. Mr. McGuinness stated staff recommends setting a salary for the City Attorney and City Auditor for 2018 and CPI through 2021.

Mr. Murdock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Easterday, to approve the recommended salary schedule outlined in the Elected Official Compensation Schedule.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried

Mr. Christie referenced Section 15-4, which outlines that the Commission must an annual cost of living adjustment which shall not exceed the average increase in the consumer price index, or successor thereto, during the preceding four years.

Mr. Paul summarized the Cost of Living Increase document, which included the Consumer Price Index definition and overview of Dr. LaFayette's previous presentation and recommendation. Mr. Paul stated staff recommends the annual cost of living increase for all elected officers of the city shall be equal to but not exceed the geometric average increase of the CPI-U, Midwest, Size Class A, All Items.

Mr. Murdock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the annual cost of living increase provided to all elected officers of the city shall be equal to but not exceed the geometric average increase of the CPI-U, Midwest, Size Class A, All Items, four years preceding the year of which the cost of living increase will be realized.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried

Mr. Christie referenced the city benchmark handout from the last meeting. Mr. McGuinness gave an update on the benchmarking report and presented the analyzed data.

Mr. Christie asked what information should be given attention and how the Commission should come up with recommendations for presentation to Council. Mr. McGuinness replied that the Commission should analyze the data and ask staff any necessary questions.

Ms. Easterday asked if other ways were considered for breaking down the data and if so, what they were. Mr. Paul responded that staff did not want to show bias in their presentation by solely using the top ten largest cities, so staff used the list approved by the Commission. Ms. Easterday rephrased her question and asked if there was another way beyond per capita either by comparing the budget, the city's average salary, or even geographical data. Mr. McGuinness responded the data could be provided in any way the Commission would like. Ms. Tyler Lee asked if the data could be overlaid to see per capita and the budget. Ms. Easterday added it would also be a way to see trends or discrepancies.

Mr. Christie asked how likely it would be to get additional requested data. Mr. McGuinness stated it should be possible by next week.

Mr. Christie asked if the average percentage increase of city employee compensation for the last five year period or a projected increase for the fiscal year for 2015 could be provided. Mr. Paul responded that information should be readily available. Ms. Easterday asked if data for the average percentage increase of private sector compensation could be provided for the same time period to compare.

Mr. McGuinness clarified whether members would like to see the general budget, capital budget, or combined. Ms. Easterday suggested the combined.

Mr. McGuinness gave an overview of the draft recommendation report outline including the cover page, table of contents, letter from the Commission, executive summary, detailed background, actual recommendations, base salaries of the Mayor, Council President, Council Members, City Attorney, and City Auditor, rationale of recommendations, cost of living adjustment, conclusion, and group of appendices.

Mr. Murdock asked if public comment could be added to the report. Mr. McGuinness responded that it could be placed in the background but could have its own separate section. Mr. Paul responded the Charter Review Commission had them, and it could be added to this report as well.

Mr. Christie asked when the draft of the report would be ready. Mr. McGuinness replied the draft would be prepared by the next meeting.

Mr. Christie confirmed that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 2nd at 1:00 p.m. and tentatively set a meeting for June 11th at 4:00 p.m., if needed.

Mr. Christie asked if any speaker slips had been submitted. Mr. Paul responded that no speaker slips had been submitted.

Mr. Christie adjourned the meeting.